

**Title:** Have Gospel-Centered Relationships

**Passage:** Galatians 5:26 - 6:5

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

### **Summary Overview:**

- Once saved, the Gospel already creates you into a whole new person, which is not based on comparison with others, neither self-confident or self-disdaining, but be bold and humble. We serve out of love and gratitude to God.

### **Context**

- Paul in Galatians previously discussed the key doctrine of salvation by grace alone through faith alone through Christ alone.
  - Exhortations in today's Passage is to come as an outflow/outcome of having already been saved.
  - It is NOT as a means of salvation or to gain God's favor, which is already established through faith in Christ alone.
  - Preceding verse: Galatians 5:25
- If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- "keep in step" = analogy as a soldier in a group
  - analogy imagery connection:
  - be disciplined: following and obeying orders, regardless of direction, implicit trust in source of orders
  - relation with others: if stumble or others stumble, what should we do? We are to help each other to stay in step.

*Key Point:* true spirituality is seen in relationship with others.

- NOT in self-meditation, isolation

### **How should our relationships look like?**

- I. Refuse conceit
- II. Restore those who sinned.
- III. Bear each other's burdens.
- IV. Beware of pride; Have a proper self-identity
- V. Remember your own responsibility

#### **I. Refuse conceit**

"Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." (Gal 5:25)

- *Paraphrase:* Do not let your hunger for honor make you either to despise or envy people. Why? The Gospel!
- conceit = Greek compound word = vain sense of glory (empty of honor or glory)
- How does conceit occur? 1) provoking and 2) envying
- 1) provoke = stems from a perception of superiority and viewing another as weaker
- 2) envy = want what something that rightfully belongs to someone else; or not wanting someone else to have something.
- wrong focus = on how others make me feel
- both born out of insecurity and inferiority

*Self-examination questions:*

- Do you have a tendency to blow-up (provoked) or clam-up (envy)

- Do you have a tendency to pick arguments (provoke) or avoid arguments (envy)
- When criticized, tend to attack right back (provoke) or given-in/make excuses (envy)
- When judge that one can never do the wrong they do (provoke) or judge self as never able to do what others do (envy)

*Key Responsive Point:*

The Gospel creates a new self-image (humbles you before anyone as a sinner who is saved by grace alone while also emboldens you before anyone telling you are honored and loved by the Only One who really counts)

- remember what Christ has done for you! This changes your attitude of yourself as well as of others.

**II. Restore those who sinned.**

"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted." (Gal 6:1)

- restore = encourage and build up

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

- "caught in any transgression" = habitual sin, one who is entrenched in sin.
- Who? "You who are spiritual" (anyone who has the Holy Spirit = all Christians!)
- What's the purpose? To restore (like putting a dislocated joint back into place, which the process itself can be painful but will bring a beneficial result)
- How done? "In a spirit of gentleness"

Matthew 18:15-17

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- first step: "between you and him alone" (not to spread and tell others the perceived wrong but first speak directly one-on-one)

**III. Bear each other's burdens**

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2)

- Christ = He has already borne all our burdens (He has ordained the end)
- The body of Christ, the church = He has ordained the means to carry burdens.
- "God has called us to be at any time one of His bell hops" (ready to help other)

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 12:9-13

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

**IV. Beware of pride / Have a proper self-identity**

"For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor." (Gal 3-4)

John 15:5 (realize a humble perspective)

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Philippians 2:5-7

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

**V. Remember your own responsibility**

"For each will have to bear his own load." (Gal 6:5)

Compare:

- Burden (v.2) = heavy load like cargo loading onto a freighter. One needs help of others.
- Load (v.5) = Lord's personal portion = refers to small traveling back = weight of our own personal responsibility before God.
- Good news: Jesus Himself can help us carry our own "load", which is comparatively light

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.